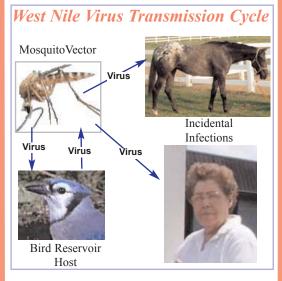
Mosquitoes transmit West Nile virus. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. The mosquito can then transmit the virus to other birds, humans or horses.



## SHOULD I REPORT DEAD BIRDS?

Help monitor for West Nile virus by reporting dead birds to public health personnel.

Birds must be tested within 48 hours of death. The presence of fly larvae (maggots) is a sign that the bird has been dead too long to be tested.

Vaccinate your horse(s). Foals too!! Contact your local veterinarian.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WEST NILE VIRUS

You can contact public health at 766.4236 or your health-care provider.

Additional information can be found at:

#### www.ndwnv.com

or by calling the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180.

Adapted with permission from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Environmental Health



Spirit Lake Reservation

# West Nile Virus



### WHAT IS WEST NILE VIRUS?

West Nile virus is transmitted by mosquitoes and primarily affects birds. In humans, it may range from a mild flu-like illness to encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).



In North Dakota in 2003, a total of 617 people had West Nile virus and 5 died. Of those 617 people, 167 needed to be hospitalized. One hundred and six out of the 167 hospitalized were age 50 or older.

## PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY!

- Wear light-colored, long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- Limit outdoor activities in the evening when mosquitoes are most active.
- Use insect repellent products with no more than 30 percent DEET for adults and children. Follow the directions on the label.
- Only adults should apply repellent on children.
- Use yellow "bug lights" for outdoor lighting.
- Install or repair screens on windows and doors.

You can still enjoy pow-wows and other outdoor activities. Just take proper precautions.



## CONTROL MOSQUITO BREEDING!

Mosquitoes can breed in a small amount of standing water in just a few days.

- Turn over boats, wheelbarrows and other water-holding items or store them where they will not collect water.
- Empty water from buckets, tarps, wading pools, troughs and potted-plant drip trays every four to five days.
- Remove old tires from your yard.
  For more information call the Division of Waste
  Management at 701.328.5163.
- Clean roof gutters and downspout screens.
- Keep grass cut short.
- Cover trash cans to keep out rainwater or drill holes in the bottom.